

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM MANY STATES

Important News Gathered from Abroad for the Benefit of Our Readers.

Considerable property damage was caused by earthquake shocks in Sorro, San Marcel, and other towns in New Mexico. A distinct shock was felt at El Paso, Tex., but no damage was done.

Hon. S. W. Hager, Auditor of the State, delivered an address opening his campaign for Governor in Mt. Sterling before a good crowd.

Some enterprising Southerner recently sent to the President at Oyster Bay a weird paragraph from a New York daily paper, which told how a Richmond, Va., man had found a Chicago dog license tag in a can of Wiener-wursts. The President carefully pasted the clipping on a large sheet of paper and forwarded it with the letter to Commissioner Neill, who is largely responsible for the present agitation over meat products. Underneath the slip the President had written in bold letters:

"Respectfully and prayerfully reffered.
T. Roosevelt."

London, Ky., July 20.—At Humphrey, in Casey county, at the conclusion of John D. White's speech, Mr. White was called upon to admit or deny certain statements in the deposition of W. S. Taylor in the congressional contest case of White against Boreing. Mr. White lost his temper and in an infuriated denunciation of W. S. Taylor said that he (Taylor) had conceived assassination, and was "worthy of a front seat in hell." Mr. White wants to represent the Republicans of the Eleventh district in the next Congress.

Campton, Ky., July 19.—News was received here this morning that F. A. Hopkins, of Floyd county, had entered the race to succeed himself as a member of Congress from this (the Tenth congressional) district.

Sergeant, Ky., July 19.—The details received here from Beaver Creek, fifteen miles north, concerning the assassination of Dick Hall and a man named Thornberry, Tuesday evening, are meager. However, the most authentic reports show that Hall and Thornberry were assassinated as they were riding along Beaver creek. Hall was killed on the spot, and reports indicate, while Thornberry was desperately wounded and may die. It is known that a feud had been growing between members of the Hall and Thornberry families, and a clash was hourly expected. When John Thornberry, one of the men assassinated, joined the Hall forces, two weeks ago, it gave new life to the factions. Now there is much excitement, and those in close touch with both factions declare that more bloodshed is imminent. A special messenger was sent to the scene. Excitement is high.

Chicago, July 19.—The Daily Trade Bulletin today issued its annual estimate of the wheat crop. The crop of winter wheat is placed at 435,000,000 bushels and that of spring wheat at 285,000,000 bushels; making a total yield of 720,000,000 bushels. Supplies carried over in second hands are estimated at 85,000,000 bushels and it is figured that 46,000,000 bushels are still in the hands of farmers, making a total supply for the year of 821,000,000 bushels. The estimated export during the year, and supplies on hand July 1, 1907, 296,000,000 bushels. The aggregate world's crop is placed at eighty million bushels less than last year.

Richmond, Ky., July 21.—Replying to a letter addressed to him by Gov. Beckham, Senator James B. McCreary today addressed a letter to the Governor, in which he agrees to one of the propositions made by the Governor, but declines to agree with him on the other. Senator McCreary agrees with Gov. Beckham that all the candidates shall be present when the State Committee arranges the order in which the names of candidates to be voted for at the coming State primary are to appear on the ballot, and the proposition made by Gov. Beckham, that he and Senator McCreary divide them equally, Sena-

tor McCreary asks the Governor if he thinks this would be fair to the candidates for the other offices. He suggests to the Governor that each of the candidates for any office, from the lowest to the highest, has the same and equal right to participate in the selection of the election officers, and declines to agree with the Governor that the minor candidates be ignored.

Senator McCreary says he is willing at any time that may be convenient to them both to go before the State Executive Committee with Gov. Beckham and confer with that committee regarding the plans for the primary, accepting an invitation given by Gov. Beckham.

The Hon. William Jennings Price, candidate for Congress in the Eighth Kentucky district, while speaking at Lawrenceburg, was overcome by the heat, and fell into the arms of his opponent, Judge John W. Hughes. He has withdrawn from the race.

The thirty-seventh annual meeting of the Kentucky Press Association began at 11 o'clock Monday with a luncheon at the Old Inn, given by the Courier-Journal and the Louisville Times. The editors left at 12:01 for Grayson Springs, where a reception was held.

Lexington, Ky., July 22.—A sale of 20,000 acres of land in Eastern Kentucky, to a New York syndicate, was practically concluded in this city last night. Charles E. Smith, a real estate broker of Winchester, representing the owners of the land. Mr. Smith stated that the deal represented a purchase price of \$200,000, which would be paid within ten days, and the buyers given a deed to the property. The land comprises 20,000 acres in Perry county. There is much valuable timber on the tract, and a number of fine coal veins. The property is not touched by a railroad now, but Mr. Smith believes that section will soon be penetrated by a railroad.

A party of revenue officers from the Seventh and Eighth districts made a raid early Saturday morning upon a moonshine still near Gombord, Powell county, capturing C. T. Gilbert, W. L. Clifton and James Martin, and destroying an eighty-five gallon still, and about four hundred gallons of beer. The prisoners were taken to Beattyville, and gave bond to appear before the United States Court at Frankfort, in September. The Deputy Collectors composing the raiding party were: W. M. Insko, G. W. Castle and H. C. Herndon, of the Seventh district, and J. T. McCoy, of the Eighth, assisted by Deputy Marshal William Mays and S. S. Bailey, of Beattyville, and Lewis White and George Tabor, of Olive Hill.

It is claimed that the miners who constitute a majority of the Republicans in Speaker Cannon's district will vote against him. They claim that they have no doubt of his defeat at the next election.

Russell Sage, the veteran financier, died suddenly of heart disease at his country home "Cedarcroft," at Lawrence, L. I. He had intended to observe his ninetieth birthday on August 4. Mr. Sage had been in exceptionally good health since his arrival at his summer home about six months ago. He was one of the wealthiest men in this country and controlled and loaned more money than any man or corporation.

The dissolution of Parliament by the Czar is considered as the beginning of the last act of the great drama of the Russian Revolution. The people and the Government are in direct opposition, and upon the army depends the immediate issue. The Government is preparing for battle, and no stone is being left unturned to safeguard its interests. St. Petersburg and other cities are crowded with soldiers, resembling an armed camp. The opposition in the former Parliament will not attempt to meet in St. Petersburg, but several of the members have gone to Finland, where it is said, meetings will be held. The Government is making searches without process of law, and public and private meetings are forbidden. The Czar has announced that his actions does not mean an annulment of the principle of popular representation.

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COAL LANDS

In Eastern Kentucky and Their Development.

(Manufacturers' Record.)

Cincinnati, Ohio, July 16.
The story of the Big Sandy Coal Co., reading like a romance and illustrating the marvelous money-making possibilities which attend the development of the coal resources of the Appalachian range, was brought to mind by a discussion I heard recently regarding the volume of investments now being made in Southern properties, and the favor in which such properties have come to be regarded, even by the most conservative capitalists in the centers of the East. The discussion ended in a general agreement that the people of the North are going to have at least an equal share with Southerners of the great profits which are being made in the development of Southern properties, and a declaration was made by those present that in the matter of coal properties alone there were likely to be as many great fortunes created for people of New England itself as had been made out of the industrial development of the New England States, enormous as that development has been.

It occurs to me that no more striking demonstration of the truth of this statement could be furnished than is contained in the history of the Big Sandy Coal Co.'s operations and its condition and promises today. As in the case of every other great enterprise, there have been long years of weary work and waiting while the building of the enterprise was in progress. There have been discouragements and hardships, failures at times, and even pathetic deaths of some of those who have toiled longest and hardest. Only in the recent past has the property been put in producing shape and the fruit of years of endeavor come to hand. But now there is revealed to all the foundation for the hope that inspired the men behind the enterprise, and what they have seen from the beginning is today apparent to all the world. Within the year railroads have penetrated the property of the Big Sandy Company, mining operations for the first time have been started up, the superior steam, gas and coking coal of the company have been put on the market, and present capacity of operations will show a production of about 1,300,000 tons a year.

Altogether the Big Sandy Company owns 120,000 acres of the finest coal lands of Southeastern Kentucky, situated in Pike county, and carrying in the best-developed form all the seams of the phenomenally excellent Elkhorn coals. Throughout the tract there are six seams of coal, workable over large areas and running from four to eight feet in thickness, while in one area of about 4000 acres there occurs what is called the Flatwoods seam, which at some of the openings shows the extraordinary thickness of 17 feet. The two principal seams, with respect both to quality of coal and persistency, are the Upper and Lower Elkhorn, which are found practically throughout the entire property, separated from 160 to 200 feet in column and showing five, six, seven, and up to eleven feet of thickness. There are the coking coals, surpassing in quality even the best coke of the Connellsville district of Pennsylvania. Whereas Connellsville coke boasts of 90 per cent. of fixed carbon and something less than eight-tenths of 1 per cent. of sulphur, the Elkhorn coke has shown as much as 96 per cent. of fixed carbon and less than five-eighths of 1 per cent. of sulphur. Of the same geological horizon as the Connellsville coal, and presenting the same appearance in the mine and after being coked, there is no intelligent doubt that the grade is practically the same. That the area in Kentucky is greater than that of Pennsylvania, and is just beginning to be developed, while the end of the Connellsville district is in sight, is the feature of vast moment to the accurate computation of the present and prospective value of the Big Sandy Company's holdings.

The Big Sandy Company is capitalized at \$5,000,000, which represents a valuation of less than \$38.50 an acre. The Connellsville coking coal lands of Fayette county, Pennsylvania, cannot be bought for less than \$1200 per acre, and in some instances a small tract has brought as much as \$4000 an acre. The Pocahontas coal lands of West Virginia have brought as much as \$400 an acre, and it is doubtful if any can be had for less than \$150 an acre. Were the lands of the Big Sandy Company to be valued at one-third less than any of the Pocahontas lands, the property would be worth \$13,000,000, while the present top-notch price of the Pocahontas lands would run the valuation up to \$52,000,000, and the lowest valuation of the Connellsville lands would show the tremendous aggregate of \$156,000,000.

It is considered a conservative estimate that there are 10,000 tons of coal to the acre throughout the tract of the Big Sandy Company. This would give 1,300,000,000 tons of coal as the minimum possible production. At \$1 a ton at the mouth of the mine—and during a term of years it would likely often run much more rather than less—the stupendous sum of \$1,300,000,000 would represent the value of the coal in this tract, while if the coal were to be all mined out on royalties—10 cents is the royalty received by the company, and it will not be less—the profits of the company, simply sitting with its hands folded and its till open, would amount to \$12,000,000.

But as I mentioned in an article on Eastern Kentucky developments, printed in the Manufacturers' Record of July 23 a year ago, it has been for years an idea of the Big Sandy Company that the extensive manufacture of coke should be fostered and encouraged, not alone through coke plants on the railroad spurs near the mines, but through by-product plants at important manufacturing centers. It was stated in the article referred to that the company had been in correspondence with the by-product plants of several large cities, so that efforts from the first have been made along lines that will procure the most profitable development of the property. What progress has been made in this direction has not been announced, but I understand that plans are under consideration which, when perfected, would demonstrate a development of the property of the Big Sandy Company in a way greatly more profitable than would be the mere mining of coal by operators on royalties paid to the company.

I am informed that there are at this time 10 operators at work on the property of the Big Sandy Company along the branch line of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad extending from Regina for eight miles up the Marrowbone creek. All are experienced and successful operators from the Pocahontas fields of West Virginia and from Pennsylvania. From out of the list of applicants the company was enabled to make selection of only the strongest and best. It is the calculation that within a few months the production from the mines on the Big Sandy Company's property will aggregate 2,000,000 tons a year, and that it will be gradually still further increased. The extension of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad's Big Sandy Branch from Whitehouse to Elkhorn, near the Breaks of the Big Sandy, a distance of 77 miles, was completed in July of last year as a culmination of negotiations between the Big Sandy and the railroad companies, and the Marrowbone branch was built by the two interests shortly afterwards. The South & Western Railroad, the Geo. T. Carter enterprise, which is backed by the Blair-Ryan-Coolidge syndicate, is under construction to a junction with the Chesapeake & Ohio at Elkhorn City. So a very general and important development of the entire property of the Big Sandy Company is well under way.

It took much patience, pluck and perseverance, however, to bring about the conditions of today, and in the achievement there is afforded a very excellent illustration of Yankee grit. New England shrewdness is furthermore demonstrated in the ownership, the stock of the company being almost exclusively held by residents of Boston. The moving spirit in the enterprise has been Mr. Charles E. Heller, a young lawyer from Maine who had settled in Boston, and who came down into Kentucky some 20 years ago to see what might be done in the way of securing for Eastern clients some salvage from the wreck of the old Charleston, Cincinnati & Chicago Railroad (the Three Cs, as it was commonly called). The Elkhorn coal lands owned by the company were very carefully examined by Mr. Heller, and the possibility of a great future for the district strongly appealed to him. From almost the first inspection of the property he began to work out plans for buying the property, adding to the acreage and bringing about a development through railroad construction. At that time wild lands in Kentucky were not in high repute, and were salable at hardly more than nominal figures, \$5 an acre, indeed, being considered an extravagant price. Getting together an organization, Mr. Heller and associates began the acquisition of what is now the 130,000-acre tract of splendid coal lands owned by the Big Sandy Company. Mr. Ralph A. Heller, a brother, went right into the field, and for more than 10 years, and until his lamentable death a few weeks ago, devoted his entire time to consolidating ownerships, getting together a compact body of lands and perfecting plans for the mining of the coal. The magnificent properties as they stand today constitute a living monument to those endeavors.

It is impossible to definitely calculate the ultimate value of this tract or to find the dividends that will be paid. At the lowest conceivable

amount of profits they will be sufficient to give colossal fortunes to scores of stockholders and to make the name of Big Sandy famous among the dividend-payers of the world.
ALBERT PHENIX

Graded Course for Public Schools

Frankfort, Ky.—State Superintendent J. H. Fuqua has completed and sent to County Superintendents over the State a pamphlet giving a graded course of study for the common schools of Kentucky and a programme for daily recitations in the schools, which he thinks will be of great aid to the teachers in their work. A copy of the pamphlet, which is authorized by the State Board of Education, will be placed in the hands of every teacher in the State at once. The pamphlet is the result of a meeting held here some weeks ago, participated in by the Superintendents in a number of counties of the State, and at which meeting Prof. Fuqua and County Superintendents L. N. Taylor, of Pulaski county; J. W. Bush, of Washington county; and G. M. Money, of Shelby county, were appointed a committee to prepare a practical course of study and daily programme for use in the schools.

In presenting the pamphlet to those interested in the cause of education, Superintendent Fuqua writes as follows:

After consultation with quite a number of our best county superintendents, it was the unanimous decision that there was great need for a graded course of study and programme for recitations in the common schools. Superintendents L. N. Taylor, of Pulaski county; J. W. Bush, of Washington county; and G. M. Money, of Shelby county, were appointed a committee to prepare such a course of study and programme for recitations as shall be declared suitable and practical. I think they have done good work, and I hereby render thanks to them for their co-operation and valuable assistance.

I urge all superintendents in the State to see that a copy of this pamphlet is in the hands of each teacher and that they follow its directions as nearly as conditions will permit. I know that if they will do so, it will aid them greatly in their daily work. I also urge the patrons, through the teachers, to co-operate with the teachers and make special efforts to put their children into school at the commencement of the session, and not allow them to lose any time if it can possibly be prevented. It is impossible to have a successful school and suitable advancement on the part of pupils if they are not prompt and punctual in attendance.

Our schools will never attain efficiency until we can have the mutual and cordial co-operation of superintendent, patron and pupil. My most ardent desire is to see the children of our State trained and educated in ideal manhood and womanhood. This standard is not too high, and it can be reached if the friends of education will exert themselves and make their influence to be felt. I confidently look forward to the time when such a condition will prevail in our beloved Commonwealth. I appeal to all Kentuckians to aid me in this work, assuring them that it shall not be "love's labor lost."

Judge M. M. Redwine.

The Kentucky State Journal says: Governor Beckham recently announced the appointment of Judge M. M. Redwine, of Sandy Hook, Elliott county, as a Circuit Judge of the new 32nd judicial district created by the last session of the Legislature out of the counties of Carter, Elliott, Morgan and Lawrence, which were taken from surrounding districts.

The appointment of Judge Redwine to this official position is an especially meritorious one. After serving as Commonwealth's Attorney of the 20th district with splendid success, Judge Redwine returned to private life, but was nominated by the Democrats of Carter and Elliott county for the Legislature, and in the general election won by overcoming 600 majority, defeating a very strong Republican and redeeming the 190th district to Democracy.

In the lower House, Judge Redwine was a vigorous and able leader for much of the beneficial legislation which became enacted into law, making especial efforts in behalf of the County Unit bill and to tax the rectifiers. He has been importuned by many of the temperance leaders to make the race for lieutenant governor, but prefers to stand for election to succeed himself, when the regular election time for the judgeship of this district rolls round. Judge Redwine will make a capable and conscientious judge and will likely have no opposition.

Attorney John M. Waugh, of Grayson county, who will move into the 32nd district from the 20th will be the new Commonwealth's Attorney of that district, while Attorney William T. Cole, of Greenup, both prominent Democrats, will succeed Waugh as prosecutor for the State in the 20th.

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The Commoner and BIG SANDY NEWS both one year for the low price of \$1.00. Regular price of the Commoner \$1.00. This offer applies to both new and renewal subscriptions. Address all orders to NEWS, LOUISA, KY.

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